

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method to match a set of input fingerprint blocks, each fingerprint block representing at least a part of an information signal, with fingerprints stored in a database that identify respective information signals, the method comprising:

using a processor to perform the operations of:

selecting a first fingerprint block of said input set of fingerprint blocks, the first fingerprint block associated with a first position in the input set of fingerprint blocks;

finding a first matching fingerprint block in said database that matches the first fingerprint block;

selecting a further fingerprint block from said set of input fingerprint blocks, the further fingerprint block associated with a second position in the input set of fingerprint blocks relative to the first position associated with said first fingerprint block, the second position being distinct from the first position;

locating a corresponding fingerprint block in said database at a position corresponding to the second position in the set of fingerprint blocks; and

determining if the corresponding fingerprint block matches said further fingerprint block,

wherein a match in said finding is deemed to have occurred if a number of differences between the first fingerprint block and the matching fingerprint block in said database is below a first threshold, and a match in said determining is deemed to have occurred if a number of differences between the further fingerprint block and the corresponding fingerprint block is below a second threshold, said second threshold being different from said first threshold.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising iteratively repeating selecting a further fingerprint block, locating a corresponding fingerprint block in said database and determining if said located fingerprint block matches said selected

further fingerprint block for different predetermined positions relative to the first selected fingerprint block.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second position is an adjacent position with respect to the first fingerprint block.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an information signal;

dividing the information signal into sections; and

generating said set of input fingerprint blocks by calculating a fingerprint block for each section.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising generating a logging report for an information signal, the generating a logging report comprising:

dividing the information signal into similar content segments;

generating an input fingerprint block for each segment; and

repeating the operations of selecting a first fingerprint block of said input set of fingerprint blocks, finding a first matching fingerprint block in said database that matches the first fingerprint block, selecting a further fingerprint block from said set of input fingerprint blocks, locating a corresponding fingerprint block in said database at a position corresponding to the second position in the set of fingerprint blocks, and determining if the corresponding fingerprint block matches said further fingerprint block so as to identify each of said blocks.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said information signal comprises an audio signal, and wherein each segment corresponds to at least a portion of a song.

9.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus arranged to match a set of input fingerprint blocks, each fingerprint block representing at least a part of an information signal, with fingerprints stored in a database that identify respective information signals, the apparatus comprising a processing unit arranged to:

a buffer to store a set of input fingerprint blocks, each fingerprint block from the set of input fingerprint blocks representing at least a part of an information signal;

a database to store reference fingerprint blocks; and

a database search engine to:

select a first fingerprint block of said set of input fingerprint blocks, the first fingerprint block associated with a first position in the input set of fingerprint blocks;

find a first matching fingerprint block in said database that matches the first fingerprint block utilizing a first threshold;

select a further fingerprint block from said set of input fingerprint blocks, the further fingerprint block associated with a second position in the input set of fingerprint blocks relative to the first position associated with said first fingerprint block, the second position being distinct from the first position;

locate a corresponding fingerprint block in said database at a position corresponding to the second position in the set of fingerprint blocks; and

determine if the corresponding fingerprint block matches said further fingerprint block utilizing a second threshold,

wherein said second threshold is different from said first threshold.

13. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a database arranged to store fingerprints identifying respective information signals and meta-data associated with each signal.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a receiver to receive an information signal, and a fingerprint generator arranged to generate said set of input fingerprint blocks from said information signal.

15. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instruction data to cause a machine to:

select a first fingerprint block of said set of input fingerprint blocks, the first fingerprint block associated with a first position in the input set of fingerprint blocks;

find a first matching fingerprint block in said database that matches the first fingerprint block utilizing a first threshold;

select a further fingerprint block from said set of input fingerprint blocks, the further fingerprint block associated with a second position in the input set of fingerprint blocks relative to the first position associated with said first selected fingerprint block, the second position being distinct from the first position;

locate a corresponding fingerprint block in said database at a position corresponding to the second position in the set of fingerprint blocks; and

determine if the corresponding fingerprint block matches said further fingerprint block utilizing a second threshold,

wherein said second threshold is different from said first threshold.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

using a processor to perform the operations of:

receiving a plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the plurality of fingerprint blocks to represent an input information signal;

selecting a first fingerprint block from the plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the first fingerprint block associated with a first position in the plurality of input fingerprint blocks;

determining a first matching fingerprint block in the reference database that matches the first fingerprint block utilizing a first threshold;

determining a second position in the plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the second position based on a predetermined relationship between two fingerprint blocks from the plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the second position being distinct from the first position;

determining a further fingerprint block at the second position in the plurality of input fingerprint blocks;

in the reference database, determining a corresponding fingerprint block at a position corresponding to the second position;

comparing the further fingerprint block and the corresponding fingerprint block;
and

determining a positive match or a negative match based on the results of the comparison utilizing a second threshold,

wherein said second threshold is different from said first threshold.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, comprising identifying the information segment as a reference information segment from the reference database in response to the positive match.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the identifying of the information segment as the reference information segment is in response to real time monitoring.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the real time monitoring is associated with a radio broadcast.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined relationship is based on one fingerprint block being adjacent to another fingerprint block.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the information segment comprises an image.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the predetermined relationship is based on two fingerprint blocks corresponding to two image segments located along a diagonal of the image.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the determining of the further fingerprint block comprises utilizing a length of the input information segment, in addition to utilizing the first position.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the information signal comprises a video signal.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the information signal comprises an audio signal.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

using a processor to perform the operations of:

receiving a plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the plurality of fingerprint blocks to represent an input information signal, said input information signal comprising content without meta-data;

selecting a first fingerprint block from the plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the first fingerprint block associated with a first position in the plurality of input fingerprint blocks;

determining a matching fingerprint block in the reference database based on a positive match between the first fingerprint block and the matching fingerprint block utilizing a first threshold;

determining a second position in the plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the second position based on a predetermined relationship between two fingerprint blocks from the plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the second position being distinct from the first position;

determining a further fingerprint block at a second position in the plurality of input fingerprint blocks, the second position being distinct from the first position;

in the reference database, determining a corresponding fingerprint block based on its position in the reference database corresponding to the second position;

comparing the further fingerprint block and the corresponding fingerprint block to determine a match utilizing a second threshold,

wherein said second threshold is different from said first threshold.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information signal comprises audio content and does not contain meta-data.